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<b>Office Hours:</b>	T: 1:45p-4:45p W: 1:00p-2:00p R: 1:45p-2:45p
Notes: Office hours during finals week are by appointment only. Other changes will be announced.	

**WELCOME TO GEOGRAPHY 317**

The goal of this course is to introduce you to the cultural and physical landscapes of East Asia. Although "East" Asia can be defined variously, our focus will be primarily on the countries of Japan, China/Taiwan, North Korea, and South Korea – along with a few neighbors from time to time. Through class discussions, readings, and various projects, we will explore this highly distinctive and important region from a variety of perspectives. Rather than attempting complete surveys of each country, we instead focus on key issues and cases that relate to either the region generally or specific countries. While we develop an historical context for the area and its constituent nations, our objective will be to highlight recent and contemporary matters that help to explain this dynamic region of the world.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS**

1. Japan in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century by P. Karan
2. An Internet-connected computer with which you will be connecting to a variety of media including regional newspapers, articles, video clips and other material. A number of tools are available on my website to help you access these materials if you need them.

**Course Structure**

**A. READINGS and OTHER MATERIALS.** Your main text is Japan in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Beyond that, we will be making extensive use of the World Wide Web. You will need to be able to access the Web daily to read several on-line newspapers as well as to access on-line video and other articles/materials.

**B.** Two (2) **EXAMINATIONS** will be given during the semester. The exams are not specifically cumulative but I will expect that you are familiar with basic concepts and ideas previously covered. Exams will cover material from the lectures and readings (including both our book and on-line newspapers), as well as relevant material from any videos (including those provided to you on-line), student presentations, or guest lecturers that we might have. There will usually be "something for everyone" on most exams: short answer, fill-ins, map questions, multiple-choice, true/false, and matching. I often include "slide questions" on my exams, where I show you an image that relates to something that we have discussed and ask you questions about it. Your average on the two exams will account for 50% of your course grade.

**C.** A number of **SHORT QUIZZES / SHORT CLASS PROJECTS / SHORT HOMEWORKS** will take place during the semester. The quizzes will take about 10-15 minutes to complete and will ask basic questions – usually from the current events (i.e., on-line newspaper) readings or your book. Short projects will include both in-class work and short homework assignments. Your average on all of this will account for 25% of your final course grade.

**D.** Working with one of your colleagues, you will be responsible for leading a short (15 minute) discussion covering current events in Asia. Along with your discussion you will write a **POSITION "PAPER"** (written individually) that will provide you with an opportunity to analyze your "current events" issue(s). These papers are very short — 3 pages maximum (1.5 spaced, plus additional pages for references/ graphics). In grading these short pieces, I will be interested not only in your command of facts and ideas, but also in your assessment of situations (i.e. what YOU think, not just what the articles say) and the thoughtfulness

and creativity of your answers. Your performance on your position paper will comprise 10% of your final course grade and your class discussion will count for an additional 10% of your grade. You will receive more information on this shortly.

**E. ATTENDANCE & CLASSROOM PERFORMANCE / DISCUSSION** are important parts of this course. Attendance is required. My analyses of student grades in the past have shown that there is a strong positive correlation between attendance levels and course grades – in short, if you do not come to class, you will be very likely to fail this course. I will be collecting information on attendance. 2 points will be deducted from your final course grade for each class or portion thereof you miss. In addition, students with poor attendance records, including those who leave early will not receive the benefit of the doubt when I grade exams, quizzes, papers, etc. and will receive a significant reduction on their final course grades (up to and including an “F”) at my discretion.

**Participation** an important part of this course and is evidence that you have prepared for class and thought about the readings, assignments and previous class discussions. This score will account for 5% of your final course grade calculation. At the end of the semester I will assign a grade for participation based not just upon the quantity of your participation but also the quality. Those who consistently participate thoughtfully and are well-prepared will receive 4-5%. Those who participate on a limited basis will earn 1-3%. Others will receive 0. These are not 5 free points -you must earn them.

**GRADING SUMMARY**

*Final grades will be calculated as follows:*

*Final Course Grade Assignment:*

Average on 2 exams	50%	A	93+	C+	77-79
Quizzes / Short projects	25%	A-	90-92	C	70-76
Presentation	10%	B+	87-89	D	60-69
Position Paper	10%	B	83-86	F	< 60
Participation / Attn	5%	B-	80-82		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>				

**IMPORTANT NOTES AND REMINDERS**

1. Many course materials (or links to these materials) will be made available to you on my World WWW site (<http://webspace.ship.edu/kgfuel>). I will explain more about what is available to you in class.

2. I expect your work in all facets of this course to adhere to University and Geography Earth-Science Department standards of academic honesty. If you are unfamiliar with University policies regarding such matters, please review your University catalog (or click on the link on the course Web page).

Each assignment and all other work that you submit must be signed and dated on the top of the first page by you (and your partners, if applicable) to certify that: (a) the work that you have submitted is your own; (b) that you understand Shippensburg University's policies regarding academic honesty; and, (c) that your work is not in violation of these rules. **Your work will not be accepted without these signatures.**

3. When turning in your work for this course, please note the following directions. Work that does not conform to these guidelines *will not be accepted* and will receive a zero:

- a) Assigned work will be collected at the beginning of class – work that is not turned in at that time is late and will not be accepted.
- b) All work *must* be typed, unless otherwise directed and stapled. Do not fold corners or use a clip -- pages will get lost. Do not come to class and ask for a stapler because I will not have one. However, *do not waste money on report covers!!!* A simple staple is perfect.

4. There will be no make-up exams, quizzes etc. unless you have my prior approval. The format of the make-up exam or quiz is at my discretion, and may differ significantly from what the rest of the class takes.

5. Please note that I do not decide whether the University is open for classes or not. ONLY the President's office makes such decisions, and class will or will not be held on the basis of the President's decision. Information regarding closures or schedule changes is available at 477-1200. If any due date (e.g., exam, project, etc.) is missed due to a University closure (for weather or other reasons), the *activity will be due / made-up during the first class period after the closure – so come prepared.*

6. For your privacy, I do not discuss grades over the telephone or via E-mail. I will post your grades on *Blackboard* as they are available.
7. Please turn off and put away cell phones. Failure to do so will result in grade reductions.
8. I will make appropriate accommodations for those students with documented disabilities who wish accommodations to be made. Please schedule an appointment with me to discuss your situation during the first week of class.
9. Student-athletes should consult my "Student-Athlete" page available on my WWW site. Please read and follow the information in the document "Attendance, Missed Classes and Working with your Professors" available there.
10. We all know special circumstances arise in all of our lives. If issues come up that you believe will affect your performance in the course PLEASE, PLEASE, come to see me as soon as possible. IF we talk early, there are often things we can do to work through those issues. If you wait until the end of the semester, there will be little I can do to help.

## GEO317: SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
Jan 13	Tues	Introduction to the course / Group Assignments
Jan 20	Tues	Climate, landforms, physical environment
Jan 27	Tues	Climate, etc.; Demography and cultural geography
Feb 3	Tues	Demography and cultural geography
Feb 10	Tues	Rural / urban geographies
Feb 17	Tues	
Feb 24	Tues	<b>EXAM #1</b>
Mar 3	Tues	<i>SPRING BREAK – No Class</i>
Mar 10	Tues	Exam review, political geography
Mar 17	Tues	Political geography
Mar 24	Tues	Economy and transport
Mar 31	Tues	Economy and transport
Apr 7	Tues	Environmental challenges and land use
Apr 14	Tues	Environmental challenges and land use
Apr 21	Tues	Environmental challenges and land use
Apr 28	Tues	<b>EXAM #2</b>

**Readings are listed on the web !**